



SPEAKERS' ABSTRACTS

Dr. Charles Walcott, Cornell University

Territoriality and Loon Pairs

Common Loons, *Gavia immer*, establish breeding territories on fresh water lakes. Territories can be founded on vacant lakes, by replacing a missing pair member or by actively evicting a member of a pair. When an intruding female takes over a territory, the displaced female moves to an adjacent lake. In contrast, when the intruder is a male. About 30% of the territorial battles are fatal. If a loon is killed, it is always the resident male, never the intruder. We don't know why there is this asymmetry in the behavior of the two sexes. But since it is the male loon that seems to select the nest site with improving reproductive success every year, this may be the reason.

Vocalizations, especially the male "yodel", play a role in territorial defense. Only the male gives a yodel, usually in response to the potential intrusion of another male. Each male has his own characteristic yodel that is stable from year to year. If, however, a male changes territory, it changes its yodel. And it always changes it to increase the difference between its former yodel and that of the previous resident of the territory. In addition to individuality, the pitch of the yodel reflects the mass and physical condition of the loon, and the length of the yodel its willingness to fight.

Kathy Jones, Director, Canadian Lakes Loon Survey

The Canadian Loon Survey

Kathy Jones will provide highlights about the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, its, past, present, and future. She will review the history of volunteer-based loon monitoring and research in Ontario and provide a general summary of loon breeding success in eastern Ontario. Jones will discuss the many way the CLLS supports loon conservation and research, explain how Lake Associations can become involved, and provide loon conservation tips for lake users.

Kathy Jones, Director, Canadian Lakes Loon Survey

Assessing the Effectiveness of Artificial Loon Nesting Platforms

Artificial loon nesting platforms are a tried and true technique for improving loon reproductive success on lakes where nesting is unsuccessful. However, if used incorrectly, platforms can cause greater harm than good. Kathy Jones will discuss the pros and cons of platform use and

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SPEAKERS' ABSTRACTS, *continued*

where and how they successfully improve loon reproductive success. Jones will provide an overview of the latest research on platforms, highlight two effective platform structure types, and summarize recent Canadian Lakes Loon Survey data on nest platform use and success.

Cliff Bennett, Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists

Loons and Human Interaction

Cliff Bennett will present a capsule look at how humans interact with loons, both positively and negatively. He will cover many aspects of habitat loss and protection and conclude with a discussion on planning issues centred around municipalities which hold lakes with loon populations.

PARTNERS IN LOON CARE



Simon Lunn, Loon Images, Smiths Falls

